

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1, 3, and 24 are currently amended. No new matter was added as a result. Claims 1 and 24 have been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter, and claim 3 has been amended for consistency. Claims 2 and 26 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-25, and 27 are currently pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10-23 have been allowed. (Office Action, page 5). Claims 2 and 26 were objected to but are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Aindow (U.S. 6,094,988). Claims 1, 3, 5-9, and 27 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Miller, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,267,221). Claims 4-5, 7-8, and 24-25 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aindow or Miller, et al. in view of Bar-Cohen (U.S. 4,698,541), alone or further in view of Hazony, et al. (U.S. 5,612,930).

Claim 1 and Dependents

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 2. Specifically, claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "transducer material having an array of elements and comprising a capacitive membrane connected with silicon; and a backing block on at least one side of the transducer material, the backing block adjacent the silicon and including an anechoic surface." None of the cited references teach or suggest at least these features.

Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable for at least these reasons. Claims 1, 3-9, and 27 depend from allowable claim 1 and, therefore, are allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 24 and Dependents

Claim 24 has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 26. Specifically, claim 24 recites, *inter alia*, "transmitting acoustic energy into the backing block with a membrane of a capacitive membrane ultrasound transducer, wherein the backing block is on at least one side of transducer material having an array of elements." None of the cited references teach or suggest at least these features.

Accordingly, claim 24 is allowable for at least these reasons. Claim 25 depends from allowable claim 24 and, therefore, is allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION:

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (650) 694-5810 or Craig Summerfield at (312) 321-4726.

PLEASE MAIL CORRESPONDENCE
TO:

Siemens Corporation
Customer No. 28524
Attn: Elsa Keller, Legal Administrator
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08830

Respectfully submitted,



Jenny G. Ko, Reg. No. 44,190

Attorney(s) for Applicant(s)

Telephone: (650) 694-5810

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